

## Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, KS, US

SUBJECT:VISIT OF VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO

1. DURING MAY 2 CALLS ON BUFFUM AND HABIB, VICE FONMIN LHO AND AMBASSADOR HAHM RAISED FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS:

2. LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC): LHO INDICATED THAT ROKG SEES LIMA NAC AS BEING DECISIVE IN TERMS OF HANDLING PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION AT NEXT UNGA. LHO SAID THAT IF NORTH KOREA IS ADMITTED TO NAC AT LIMA MEETING, THIS WILL ASSURE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO SECURE PASSAGE OF PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION AT UNGA. CONSEQUENTLY LHO BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT USG AND ROKG EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO DEFEAT NORTH KOREAN BID FOR NAC ENTRY. LHO SUGGESTED THAT WE MUST FIND A CORE GROUP OF TEN TO FIFTEEN NAC MEMBERS SYMPATHETIC TO OUR POSITION WHO WILL HOLD OUT

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IN LIMA AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO FORCE A QUOTE CONSENSUS

UNQUOTE ON ADMITTANCE OF NORTH KOREA.

3. BOTH BUFFUM AND HABIB IN THEIR MEETINGS WITH LHO ASSURED HIM THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO QUIETLY LINE UP SUPPORT FOR ROK EFFORTS IN BLOCKING NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP. ALSO AGREED THAT LIMA NAC MEETING

WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT EFFECT ON UNGA OUTCOME. ALSO AGREED THAT WE WOULD GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO WIDENING THE LIST OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHOM WE COULD APPROACH. LHO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID ROKG WOULD PROVIDE US WITH ITS OWN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT COUNTRIES MIGHT BE WILLING TO STAND FIRM IN LIMA AGAINST EFFORTS OF RADICAL NON-ALIGNED STATES TO FORCE THROUGH NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP TO NAC.

4. UNC FUTURE AND CONTINGENCY PLAN: LHO STRESSED THAT ROKG NOW BELIEVES IT DOES NOT DARE RISK PASSAGE OF PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE EVEN IF OUR RESOLUTION WOULD ALSO PASS. AFTER INDOCHINA EVENTS, HE AND HAHM INDICATED THAT IN ROKG VIEW PASSAGE OF PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION WOULD BE DISASTROUS IN CONTEXT KOREAN DOMESTIC SCENE AND HAVE BROADER INTERNATIONAL IMPACT. AS CONSEQUENCE ROKG BELIEVES WE MUST HAVE A CONTINGENCY TO AVOID THIS DEFEAT, EVEN IF IT MEANS CONSIDERING AS ONE OPTION UNILATERAL UNC TERMINATION.

5. BOTH BUFFUM AND HABIB INDICATED THAT WE SAW PROBLEMS WITH ANY PREMATURE ABANDONING OF OUR CURRENT STRATEGY OF LOWERING UNC PROFILE. HABIB NOTED THAT HE SAW RISK TO UNC TERMINATION RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND SECURITY SITUATION. BUFFUM IN HIS MEETING POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD ALREADY BASED OUR STRATEGY ON A FAIRLY PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF UN PROSPECTS. CONSEQUENTLY, BOTH BUFFUM AND HABIB SAID THAT IN OUR VIEW THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO PROCEED FIRST TO AGREEMENT ON COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS AND THEN SOLICIT VIEWS OF OUR CLOSE ALLIES. (BOTH INDICATED THAT WE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS SOON.)

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6. BUFFUM NOTED TO LHO THAT WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO ASSESS SITUATION BEFORE UNGA AND CONSIDER TACTICAL CONTINGENCIES ON THE BASIS OF THAT ASSESSMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT BEST TIME FOR SUCH A REVIEW WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AFTER LIMA CONFERENCE. IN CONSIDERING CONTINGENCY OPTIONS WE COULD, OF COURSE, CONSIDER TACTICAL DEVICES WHICH MIGHT SERVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION IN EVENT WE BELIEVE PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION

WOULD PASS. HABIB TOOK SAME GENERAL LINE INDICATING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER VARIOUS TACTICAL CONTINGENCIES IN UNGA CONTEXT, INCLUDING ROKG OPTION RE UNILATERAL TERMINATION WHEN WE HAD A BETTER READING OF WHAT THE IMPACT OF OUR PRESENT APPROACH WILL BE ON OUR CLOSE SUPPORTERS AND SOME OF THE MARGINAL VOTES.

7. LHO AND HAHM OBVIOUSLY NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED BUT APPEARED TO ACCEPT NEED TO PROCEED ON PRESENT COURSE WHILE DEVELOPING A BETTER READING ON UNGA PROSPECTS OVER NEXT MONTHS. THEY CLEARLY DID NOT DROP THEIR INTEREST IN UNILATERAL UNC COMMAND AS A LAST RESORT OPTION.

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